

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-36 are pending of which claims 33-36 have been added by this Amendment. In light of the amendments and following remarks, Applicants believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,628,943, issued September 30, 2003 to Agrawal et al. (hereinafter "Agrawal"). Accordingly, it is being asserted that Agrawal discloses all the features of the claims. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The invention relates to separating a mobile switching center (MSC) into two entities – a mobile control function (MCF) and a call agent (CA). There are many advantages to this distributed architecture. For example, the CA need not be specifically developed for mobile applications, new calling features can be implemented without requiring a redesign of the MSC and the MCF and CA can be made by different vendors (page 10, line 19 et seq.). In order to coordinate the two entities, the entities maintain state information. The MCF maintains connection state information such as, for example, session active (see, e.g., page 10, lines 1-7) while the CA maintains call state information such as, for example, connected (see, e.g., page 10, lines 8-18). As described in the background of the application, prior art mobile switching centers (MSCs) did not maintain this state information as they were implemented as a single entity.

Agrawal is directed to utilizing active packets in order to setup an agent in order to reduce the amount of wireless traffic. For example, referring to FIG. 2, steps 200-10 through 200-17 of the H.245 protocol are performed by an agent (see col. 7, lines 22-27). As shown in FIG. 3, the agents perform these steps that are surround by a dashed line box. By having these steps performed by agents, the traffic for these steps is between the gatekeepers and purports to save wireless traffic. Although Agrawal discloses an agent, the agent is within the entity of the gatekeeper and in fact, the agent instructs the gatekeeper to execute programs that are already stored on the gatekeeper (col. 8, lines 1-4).

The cited art has not been shown to disclose a mobile control function that maintains connection state information. For example, claim 1 recites as follows:

maintaining connection state information for said mobile station while said mobile station is handled via said radio access network.

The Agrawal reference has not been shown to maintain connection state information as claimed.

The Office Action cites col. 8, lines 41-50 as disclosing these features cited above. A closer review of this section reveals that it is referring to steps 200-5 and 200-6. The first step is directed to sending a SETUP message and the second step refers to responding with a CALL PROCEEDING message. At step 200-7, an ARQ packet is sent to gatekeeper 330-2. These steps refer to sending messages and packets, not to maintaining connection state information as claimed. Additionally, this section continues to state that agent 306 will represent terminal 302 during the H.245 signaling phase. By referring back to FIG. 3, one can see that by agent 306 representing terminal 302, less wireless traffic is needed between terminal 302 and gatekeeper 330-2. Thus, agent 306 is for reducing wireless traffic and the reference does not disclose maintaining connection information.

In short, the Agrawal reference is directed to another problem and discusses a different solution than the claimed invention. As the cited art has not been shown to disclose all the features of claim 1, a prima facie case of anticipation has not been established. Claims 1-3, 9-11, 17-19, 25-27, and 33-36 all include similar features to the ones described above in reference to claim 1 so they are all patentably distinct for at least the same reasons.

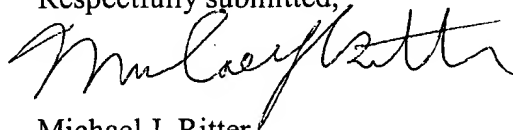
Claim 4 recites a method of operating a call agent comprising maintaining call state information for the mobile station. The Office Action cites the same section of Agrawal, col. 8, lines 41-50, as disclosing these features. As shown above, this section refers to sending messages and packets, it does not disclose maintaining call state information as claimed. Thus, in a similar fashion, a prima facie claim of anticipation has not been established for claim 4.

Claims 4-8, 12-16, 20-24, and 28-36 all include similar features to the ones described above in reference to claim 1 so they are all patentably distinct for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 446-8693.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Ritter", written over the typed name.

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